

IWASAKI et al. -- 10/701,488
Attorney Docket: 008312-0306632

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. By this Amendment, the abstract is amended; claims 7-20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and claims 1, 2, and 6 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 6 has been amended in accordance with the suggestion of the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Lairson et al. (U.S. Patent 5,834,085) and claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lairson et al. in view of Chen (U.S. Patent 6,524,730). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a method of manufacturing a perpendicular magnetic recording medium. The method comprises forming on a non-magnetic substrate a perpendicular magnetic layer at 320 to 450°C by using a magnetic layer-forming material containing cobalt, platinum, and at least one additive component of molybdenum and tungsten. The perpendicular magnetic layer is constructed to include a plurality of magnetic crystal grains containing cobalt and platinum, which are separated from each other by crystal grain boundaries in which the additive component is segregated.

Lairson et al. disclose forming a magnetic layer which contains cobalt (Co) and one of palladium (Pd) and platinum (Pt) and can contain an additive component such as tungsten (W) at a temperature of 100 to 300°C. As Lairson et al. does not disclose, at least, forming a perpendicular magnetic layer at the temperature range recited in claim 1, Lairson et al. cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 1.

It is also respectfully submitted that Chen fails to cure the deficiencies of Lairson et al. with respect to claim 1 and that there is no motivation or suggestion to combine Lairson et al. and Chen. Chen does not disclose or suggest forming a perpendicular magnetic layer at the temperature range recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the combination of Lairson et al. and Chen would not result in the invention of claim 1.


Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6 over Lairson et al. and claim 5 over Lairson et al. in view of Chen are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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